(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to protect the domestic ferro-alloy industry from probable loss of market and consequent under-utilisation of capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Even after reduction of custom duty from 85 per cent to 50 per cent the fair selling price of bulk ferro alloys like Ferro Chrome, Ferro Manganese, Silico Manganese and Ferro Silicon will be cheaper than the landed cost of imported ferro alloys.

(b. Cost of power in the domestic production of ferro alloys is quite high and accounts for 35 per cent to 45 per cent of the total cost of production of bulk ferro alloys. This is a major hindrance for the domestic ferro alloy industry to become competitive both in domestic and overseas markets.

(c) Electricity is on the concurrent list. The electricity from Central Power Station is fed into the grid and thereafter the power is distributed to the consumers by the State Electricity Boards who also determine the tariff payable. The Central Government has no control over it.

However, the Ministry of Power have written to the State Governments of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra suggesting a scheme for supply of power at rates charged by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)|Power Grid Corporation Limited out of surplus power being available in these areas and the concerned States agreeing to it. The scheme is applicable for 100 per cent export oriented units or units with furnaces totally earmarked for export purposes with a load exceeding 7.5 MVA and whose electricity bills accounts for 35 per cent or more of their cost of production

Steel induction furnace industry of Punjab

7235. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel induction furnace industry of Punjab is in dire straits;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have proposed with regard to scrap Modvat provisions and reduction of excise duty closer to the net actual receipt at present for this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The performance of steel producing units in the entire secondary steel sector including the induction furnace sector in Punjab has been adversely affected due to various reasons such as demand recession, increase in input cost like power tariff, scrap prices, etc.

(c) The representations made by the induction furnace units are under consideration of the Government.

Utilisation of Factory Wastes by SAIL

7236. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has started utilising factory wastes;

(b) if so, the amount of profit earned therefrom during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether fly-ash bricks prepared from factory wastes have become popular in the market?